

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

**Supplemental Statement****Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending 05/31/2015

(Insert date)

**I - REGISTRANT**

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A.

5342

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

1334 G Street, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20005

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- |                           |                              |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) If an organization:

- |                          |                              |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

**IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).**3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C<sup>1</sup>, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes ☐ No ☒If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>1</sup> The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position

Date Connection Ended

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Residence Address

Citizenship

Position

Date Assumed

5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

n/a

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name

Residence Address

Citizenship

Position

Date Assumed

(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position or Connection

Date Terminated

(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position or Connection

Foreign Principal

Date Terminated

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☐No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

n/a

**II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL**

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A<sup>3</sup> Yes ☐ No ☐Exhibit B<sup>4</sup> Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>2</sup> The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

<sup>3</sup> The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

<sup>4</sup> The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

**III - ACTIVITIES**

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

please see attached

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity<sup>5</sup> as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

please see attached

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

<sup>5</sup> "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act, means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

## IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.<sup>6</sup>

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
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please see attached

\$ 77 818

Total

## (b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign<sup>7</sup>, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D<sup>8</sup> to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date \_\_\_\_\_

## (c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value<sup>9</sup> other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

**15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
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please see attached

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\$ 75 422

Total

**(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value<sup>10</sup> other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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**(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value<sup>11</sup> in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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<sup>10, 11</sup> Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

## V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?<sup>12</sup>

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts ☒ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☒ Letters or telegrams  
☒ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☒ Pamphlets or other publications ☒ Lectures or speeches  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Electronic Communications**

☒ Email

☒ Website URL(s): www.nkrusa.org

☒ Social media websites URL(s): www.facebook.com/NKRinUSA

☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☒ Public officials ☒ Newspapers ☐ Libraries  
☒ Legislators ☒ Editors ☒ Educational institutions  
☒ Government agencies ☐ Civic groups or associations ☒ Nationality groups  
☒ Other (specify) NGOs, Embassies

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

☒ English ☒ Other (specify) Armenian

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

<sup>12</sup> The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.



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**VI - EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature<sup>13</sup>)June 05, 2015/s/ Robert Avetisyan, NKR Representative eSigned

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<sup>13</sup> This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

**Question 11:**

During this 6-month period, have you engaged in any activity for or rendered any service to any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement?

**Answer: Yes**

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

**Contacts**

Date: 12/09/14  
Contact: Member of the US Congress;  
Purpose: 'thank you' letters for attending meeting with NKR Parliament Speaker, and for attending Congressional event on NK;  
Contact manner: mail (letters provided in attachment #1)

Date: 12/11/14  
Contact: Mayor of Montebello, Mayor of Burbank;  
Purpose: forwarded letters by mayors of NKR's towns of Stepanakert and Hadrut;  
Contact manner: mail (letters provided in attachment #2)

Date: 02/19/15  
Contact: Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone;  
Purpose: discussion of Congressional events on Centennial of the Armenian Genocide;  
Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 02/24/15  
Contact: Offices of all members of the US Congress;  
Purpose: Sent factsheet "Azerbaijan Continues to Manipulate with the Events in Khojaly";  
Contact manner: email (factsheet copy provided in attachment #3)

Date: 03/16/15  
Contact: Members of the US Congress: Peters, Costa, Chu, Clark, Dold, Pallone, Schiff, Sherman;  
Purpose: 'thank you' letter for issuing statements re the 1988 Armenian pogroms in Sumgayit, Azerbaijan;  
Contact manner: email / mail (sample letter provided in attachment #4)

Date: 03/26/15  
Contact: Office of the US Co-Chair to the OSCE MG, US State Department;  
Purpose: Meeting with Office Advisor David Salvo to discuss US involvement in regional developments;  
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 05/14/15  
Contact: Office of members of the US Congress: Cicilline, Pallone, Sherman, Schiff;  
Purpose: forwarded preliminary report on parliamentary elections in NKR;  
Contact manner: email (sample report provided in attachment #5)

Date: 05/19/15  
Contact: Office of the US Co-Chair to the OSCE MG, US State Department;  
Purpose: Meeting with Office Advisor David Salvo to discuss US involvement in regional developments;  
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 05/29/15  
Contact: Offices of members of the US Congress;  
Purpose: forwarded letter of NKR Foreign Minister and factsheet on humanitarian needs in the NKR;  
Contact manner: email / mail (list of recipients and copies of documents provided in attachment #6)

#### Newsletters

(copies provided in attachment #7)

Date: 12/02/14, 12/24/14, 01/15/15, 02/28/15, 03/17/15, 03/31/15, 04/15/15, 05/15/15, 05/31/15;  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

#### Press-releases, Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts

(copies provided in attachment #8)

Date: 0/29/15  
Subject: Letter in the New York Times: "A Response to Azerbaijan"  
Availability: available online at <http://nyti.ms/1eTubVf>

Date: 05/05/15  
Subject: Press Release on Parliamentary Elections in the NKR  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

#### Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region

Date: 12/02/14  
Event: Event on NKR Constitution Day;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB;  
Keynote Speaker: NKR Parliament Speaker A.Ghulian;

Date: 02/11/15  
Event: Event on Armenian pogroms in Azeri towns in 1988-1990;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB;  
Speakers: Group of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan (currently US citizens);

Date: 02/19/15  
Event: Briefing on Armenian issues for Congressional staffers;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB ;  
Speakers: Armenian-American community leaders,  
Deputy chief of mission of the Armenian Embassy to the US, NKR Representative;

Date: 03/04/15  
Event: Public speech / meeting with students / discussion on situation in and around NKR;  
Location: NY Columbia University; New York, NY, USA;  
Speaker: NKR Representative;

Date: 03/10/15  
Event: Discussion on the Eurasian Economic Union;  
Location: European Institute, Washington D.C.;  
Speakers: Armenian Ambassador to US, Deputy Head of Presidential Administration of Armenia,  
Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to US, Deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Russia to US,  
Deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Kazakhstan to US, Charge d'Affaires of Belarus  
in the US;

Date: 04/07-08/15  
Event: International Conference: State Oppression, Violence Against Minorities, and the  
Possibilities for Remedial Secession and Independence  
Location: GW University;  
Speakers: International law specialists, GW Professors.

Date: 04/14/15  
Event: Lecture for students on situation in and around NKR;  
Location: California State University, Northridge;  
Speaker: NKR Representative;

Date: 04/22/15  
Event: Commemoration of Centennial of the Armenian Genocide;  
Location: US Capitol, CHOB;  
Speaker: members of the US Congress, Armenian-American community leaders, clergy,  
Armenian Ambassador to the US, NKR Representative;

**Question 12:**

During this 6-month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity as defined below?

**Answer: Yes**

Political activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

**Contacts**

Date:	12/09/14
Contact:	Member of the US Congress;
Purpose:	'thank you' letters for attending meeting with NKR Parliament Speaker, and for attending Congressional event on NK;
Contact manner:	mail (letters provided in attachment #1)
Date:	12/11/14
Contact:	Mayor of Montebello, Mayor of Burbank;
Purpose:	forwarded letters by mayors of NKR's towns of Stepanakert and Hadrut;
Contact manner:	mail (letters provided in attachment #2)
Date:	02/19/15
Contact:	Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone;
Purpose:	discussion of Congressional events on Centennial of the Armenian Genocide;
Contact manner:	office meeting
Date:	02/24/15
Contact:	Offices of all members of the US Congress;
Purpose:	Sent factsheet "Azerbaijan Continues to Manipulate with the Events in Khojaly";
Contact manner:	email (factsheet copy provided in attachment #3)
Date:	03/16/15
Contact:	Members of the US Congress: Peters, Costa, Chu, Clark, Dold, Pallone, Schiff, Sherman;
Purpose:	'thank you' letter for issuing statements re the 1988 Armenian pogroms in Sumgayit, Azerbaijan;
Contact manner:	email / mail (sample letter provided in attachment #4)
Date:	03/26/15
Contact:	Office of the US Co-Chair to the OSCE MG, US State Department;
Purpose:	Meeting with Office Advisor David Salvo to discuss US involvement in regional developments;
Contact manner:	meeting
Date:	05/14/15
Contact:	Office of members of the US Congress: Cicilline, Pallone, Sherman, Schiff;
Purpose:	forwarded preliminary report on parliamentary elections in NKR;
Contact manner:	email (sample report provided in attachment #5)
Date:	05/19/15

Contact: Office of the US Co-Chair to the OSCE MG, US State Department;  
Purpose: Meeting with Office Advisor David Salvo to discuss US involvement in regional developments;  
Contact manner: meeting  
  
Date: 05/29/15  
Contact: Offices of members of the US Congress;  
Purpose: forwarded letter of NKR Foreign Minister and factsheet on humanitarian needs in the NKR;  
Contact manner: email / mail (list of recipients and copies of documents provided in attachment #6)

#### **Newsletters**

(copies provided in attachment #7)

Date: 12/02/14, 12/24/14, 01/15/15, 02/28/15, 03/17/15, 03/31/15, 04/15/15, 05/15/15, 05/31/15;  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

#### **Press-releases, Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts**

(copies provided in attachment #8)

Date: 0/29/15  
Subject: Letter in the New York Times: "A Response to Azerbaijan"  
Availability: available online at <http://nyti.ms/1eTubVf>

Date: 05/05/15  
Subject: Press Release on Parliamentary Elections in the NKR  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

#### **Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region**

Date: 12/02/14  
Event: Event on NKR Constitution Day;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB;  
Keynote Speaker: NKR Parliament Speaker A.Ghulian;

Date: 02/11/15  
Event: Event on Armenian pogroms in Azeri towns in 1988-1990;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB;  
Speakers: Group of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan (currently US citizens);

Date: 02/19/15  
Event: Briefing on Armenian issues for Congressional staffers;  
Location: US Congress; RHOB ;  
Speakers: Armenian-American community leaders,  
Deputy chief of mission of the Armenian Embassy to the US, NKR Representative;

**Date:** 03/04/15  
**Event:** Public speech / meeting with students / discussion on situation in and around NKR;  
**Location:** NY Columbia University; New York, NY, USA;  
**Speaker:** NKR Representative;

**Date:** 03/10/15  
**Event:** Discussion on the Eurasian Economic Union;  
**Location:** European Institute, Washington D.C.;  
**Speakers:** Armenian Ambassador to US, Deputy Head of Presidential Administration of Armenia, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to US, Deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Russia to US, Deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Kazakhstan to US, Charge d'Affaires of Belarus in the US;

**Date:** 04/07-08/15  
**Event:** International Conference: State Oppression, Violence Against Minorities, and the Possibilities for Remedial Secession and Independence  
**Location:** GW University;  
**Speakers:** International law specialists, GW Professors.

**Date:** 04/14/15  
**Event:** Lecture for students on situation in and around NKR;  
**Location:** California State University, Northridge;  
**Speaker:** NKR Representative;

**Date:** 04/22/15  
**Event:** Commemoration of Centennial of the Armenian Genocide;  
**Location:** US Capitol, CHOB;  
**Speaker:** members of the US Congress, Armenian-American community leaders, clergy, Armenian Ambassador to the US, NKR Representative;

**Question 14 (a):**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interest of any such principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes

If yes, set forth in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.

The amount listed below is the total of such financial support and contributions to the NKR Office from all sources for the reporting period (12/01/2014 - 05/31/2015).

Name	Address line 1	Address line 2	Amount
NKR Government	28 Azatamartikneri St.	Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia	\$77,818.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$77,818.00</b>



## Question 15 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal of such monies, including transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal: The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

The following is a breakdown of those expenses incurred by the NKR Office in the USA during the reporting period (12/01/2014 - 05/31/2015).

NN	Purpose	Amount
1	Entertainment/meals: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests	\$3,711
3	Health Insurance	\$2,994
4	Living expenses	\$36,075
6	Car rent/related expenses	\$4,931
7	Office Supplies	\$3,272
8	Parking	\$869
9	Postage/Courier	\$269
10	Rent Housing Expats	\$15,881
11	Telephone / Internet	\$2,068
12	Travel within US & International: No U.S. officials or media were guests	\$5,220
13	Website/Email	\$132
	<b>Total operating expenses and other disbursements:</b>	<b>\$75,422</b>



**OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA**

**ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն**

December 09, 2014

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
United States Senate  
528 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for support in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Avetisyan".

Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

This material is distributed on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic is registered with the U.S. Government under the Foreign Agent Registration Act. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

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info@nkrusa.org • www.nkrusa.org

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**OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA**

**ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն**

December 09, 2014

The Honorable Ed Royce  
Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2185 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Royce:

I am writing to thank you for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Avetisyan".

Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

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**OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA**

**ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն**

December 09, 2014

The Honorable Jim Costa  
United States House of Representatives  
1314 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costa:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

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NKR Representative

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Janice Hahn  
United States House of Representatives  
404 CHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hahn:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Judy Chu  
United States House of Representatives  
1520 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chu:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

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NKR Representative

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Kerry Bentivolio  
United States House of Representatives  
226 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bentivolio:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

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December 9, 2014

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill and for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

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Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

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December 9, 2014

The Honorable Linda Sánchez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2423 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sánchez:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill and for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

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NKR Representative

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2411 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill and for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

Sincerely,

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Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

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December 9, 2014

The Honorable David Cicilline  
United States House of Representatives  
128 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cicilline:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill and for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

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Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 CHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pallone:

I am writing to thank you for organizing and leading the December 2, 2014 event at the Capitol Hill celebrating the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, as well as for your thoughtful remarks during the event. We also would like to express our gratitude for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your exceptional leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your continued support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives basing on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Avetisyan in dark ink.

Robert Avetisyan  
NKR Representative

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December 09, 2014

The Honorable Brad Sherman  
United States House of Representatives  
2242 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sherman:

I am writing to thank you for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Artsakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 2, 2014 special celebration at the Capitol Hill and for taking the time to meet with the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for all your efforts to support Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for sovereignty as our peoples share the same values of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

Your leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your support of Artsakh people's right to decide their fate reinforce our commitment to build our lives based on universal values and our common vision of a stable and peaceful South Caucasus.

Thank you again. We appreciate your support and look forward to continue our cooperation.

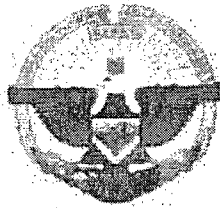
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NKR Representative

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ԼԵՆԱՅԻՆ ԴԱՐԱՐԱԴԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

НАГОРНО-КАРАБАХСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА

ՍՏԵՓԱՆԱԿԵՐՏԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱՊԵՏԱՐԱՆ

МЭРИЯ Г. СТЕПАНАКЕРТА

ք. Ստեփանակերտ, Ն. Ստեփանյան փող., 22 ☎94-37-63 ք. Степанакерт, ул. Н. Степаняна, 22  
Էլ փոստ՝ [Stepmayor@mail.ru](mailto:Stepmayor@mail.ru)

« 08 » ընկերություն 2014 թ.

N 6/2902/3

Ձեր N

Մոնթերելլոյի քաղաքապետ

Հարգարժան պարոն Ջեք Հաջինյանին

Հարգարժան պարոն Քաղաքապետ,

Ստեփանակերտ քաղաքի բնակչության և անձամբ իմ անունից ողջունում և  
շնորհավորում ենք Ձեզ Մոնթերելլոյի քաղաքապետի պաշտոնը ստանձնելու առիթով:

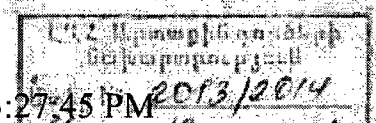
Վստահ ենք, որ Ձեր ջանքերի շնորհիվ բարեկամական կապերը Մոնթերելլոյի և  
Ստեփանակերտի միջև, որոնց հիմքը դրվել է 2005 թվականին, կստանան առավել  
գործնական բնույթ, նաաստեղծվ մեր երկու քաղաքների միջև համագործակցության  
հաստատմանն ու զարգացմանը մշակութային, կրթական և տնտեսական ոլորտներում:

Հիշելով մեր լավագույն բարեմաղթանքները, հրավիրում ենք Ձեզ Ստեփանակերտ  
գործնական երկխոսություն ծավալելու մեր երկու բարեկամ քաղաքների միջև  
համագործակցության հեռանկարների և հնարավորությունների շուրջ:

Հարգանքով:

Սուրեն Գրիգորյան

Քաղաքապետ



*non-official translation*

**The Honorable Jack Hadjinian**  
**Mayor of Montebello**  
**1600 W. Beverly Blvd.**  
**Montebello, CA 90640**

**Dear Mayor Hadjinian,**

On behalf of the citizens of Stepanakert and my own behalf I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulate on your recent election as Mayor of Montebello.

We are confident that your kind efforts will foster a more practical "Sister Cities" ties between Montebello and Stepanakert that has started back in 2005 and contribute to the establishment and development of cooperation in cultural, educational and economic sectors.

Extending our best wishes, I have the pleasure of inviting you to visit Stepanakert and start a working dialogue on the prospects and possibilities of co-operation between Montebello and Stepanakert.

**Sincerely,**

**Suren Grigoryan**  
**Mayor of Stepanaker**

ԼԵՈՆԱՅԻՆ ՂԱՐԱՔԱՂԻ  
ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

ՀԱՂՈՒԹԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱՊԵՏԱՐԱՆ



НАГОРНО – КАРАБАХСКАЯ  
РЕСПУБЛИКА

МЭРИЯ ГОРОДА ГАДРУТ

ք.Հաղրուք, Ա.Մկրտչյանի փ.37

г.Гадрут ул. А.Мкртчяна 37

հեռ. (374 47) 55-18-68  
(374 47) 55-14-88

тел. (374 47) 55-18-68  
(374 47) 55-14-88

Էլ.փոստ: Hadrutiqaxaqapetaran @rambler.ru

эл.почта: Hadrutiqaxaqapetaran @rambler.ru

N 68 - Կ

« 08 » ԴԵԿՏԵՐԵՄԲԵՐ 2014թ.

ԿԱԼԻՖՈՐՆԻԱ ՆԱՀԱՐԳԻ  
ԲԸԴԲԱՆՔԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱՊԵՏ  
Պրն. ԴԵՎԻԴ ԳՈՐԴՈՆԻՆ

### Պարոն քաղաքապետ

Հաղրուք քաղաքի քաղաքապետարանի ամբողջ անձնակազմի և Հաղրուք քաղաքի բնակչության անունից թույլ տվեք Ձեզ հղել իմ անկեղծ երախտագիտությունն ու շնորհակալությունը Հաղրուք քաղաքի հետ բարեկամական կապեր հաստատելու համար:

Հավատացած եմ, որ մեր երկու քաղաքների միջև բարեկամական կապերը կամրապնդվեն առաջիկա տարիներին՝ մեր համայնքներին թույլ տալով համատեղ ծրագրեր իրականացնել կրթության, մշակույթի, սպորտի, առևտրի և տեղական կառավարման ոլորտներում:

ՀԱՂՈՒԹԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱՊԵՏ

Ա.Լ. ԱՔԴՆԱՍՅԱՆ



*non-official translation*

**The Honorable Dr. David Gordon**  
**Mayor of Burbank**

**Dear Mayor Gordon,**

On behalf of Hadrut City Hall and people of Hadrut let me express our sincere gratitude to you for establishing friendship relations with our city.

I am confident that the friendly ties between our two cities will strengthen in coming years contributing to the joint implementation of different programs in educational, cultural, sports, trade and municipal spheres.

**Sincerely,**

**A. Abrahamyan**  
**Mayor of Hadrut**



## OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

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# **Do Not Trust Dictator Aliev's Regime Do Not Support Xenophobia Read The Truth About Khojaly**

February 2015

### **AZERBAIJAN CONTINUES TO MANIPULATE WITH THE EVENTS OF KHOJALY**

*The material contains reference to Azeri sources*

Decades after the events near Aghdam (known as Khojaly events) in February 1992, official Baku has been obstinately fanning anti-Armenian hysteria with the aim of falsifying the events and discrediting the Armenian people in the eyes of the international community.

The events in Khojaly during 1991-1994 Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno Karabakh, which led to the death of civilians, were the results of political intrigues and a struggle for power in the oil-rich country.

The reasons for the tragedy are most convincingly reflected in the records of Azerbaijanis, both participants and eyewitnesses of what had happened, as well as of those who recall the whole inside story of the situation in Baku those days.

According to Azerbaijani journalist M. Safarogly, "Khojaly occupied an important strategic position. The loss of Khojaly was a political fiasco for Mutalibov".<sup>1</sup> Khojaly was one of the main strongholds of the Azeri army from which Stepanakert, the capital and the largest town of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, was shelled continuously and mercilessly for months. Suppressing firing positions in Khojaly and unblocking the only airport became a must for preventing a complete physical extermination of Stepanakert's population.

Former President of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, has emphasized that "... the assault on Khojaly was not a surprise attack"<sup>2</sup>. In his interview to "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, Mutalibov has

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confirmed that **"a corridor was kept open by the Armenians for people to leave"**<sup>3</sup>. However, civilians who tried to escape were murdered by Azeri Popular Front's troops near Agdham, 7 miles away from Khojaly. This fact was later also confirmed by Mutalibov, who linked this crime with **attempts by the opposition to dethrone him from presidency**, which they eventually did. In his more recent interview with the "Novoye vremya" magazine, Mutalibov has confirmed his earlier statement: "The shooting of the Khojaly residents was obviously organized by someone to take control in Azerbaijan"<sup>4</sup>.

Similar comments and views concerning the events in Khojaly are known to have been made by several other highly-placed Azerbaijani officials and journalists.

What resulted from the betrayal of the inhabitants of Khojaly by their own highly placed compatriots is well known. Azerbaijani propaganda has railed to the whole world about the "atrocities of the Armenians", supplying television stations with horrendous pictures of a field strewn with mutilated bodies. Khojaly is claimed to have been the "Armenians' revenge for Sumgait".

**Tamerlan Karayev, former Chairman of Azerbaijan's Supreme Council, said: "The tragedy was committed by the (current) authorities of Azerbaijan"; specifically by "someone very high-ranking"**<sup>6</sup>.

The Czech journalist Jana Mazalova, who by an oversight of the Azerbaijanis was included in both of the groups of press representatives to be shown the "bodies mutilated by the Armenians", noted a substantial difference in the two cases. When she went to the scene immediately after the events, Mazalova did not see any traces of barbarous treatment of the bodies. Yet a couple of days later the journalists were shown disfigured bodies already "ready" for filming.

Questions that can shed light on this tragedy:

1. Who killed the peaceful inhabitants of Khojaly and maimed their bodies, if the events occurred near Agdam – on territory fully controlled by the Popular Front of Azerbaijan?
2. Why everyone in Azerbaijan, who tried to find truth about Khojaly was either murdered, or imprisoned?

The independent Azerbaijani cameraman **Chingiz Mustafayev**, who worked in Khojaly those days, began to ask too many questions around the official Azerbaijani version of the events. Mustafayev **was murdered** near Agdam under unknown circumstances soon after he openly declared through the "D-press" news-agency about his intention to investigate the degree of Azerbaijan's responsibility for the events in Khojaly.

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In 2005, Azeri independent journalist Ejnulla Fatullayev has also carelessly stated in an interview to the "Monitor" Azeri agency that he had **"met with Khojaly inhabitants, who confirmed that Armenians were using loudspeakers to warn about the forthcoming operation, and offered to leave the settlement through a corridor along river"**. According to Fatullayev, without corridor, no one would have been survived. Several days after his interview, The Monitor's editor-in-chief Elmar Huseynov was murdered near his apartment, and Fatullayev was imprisoned and accused of treason and drug smuggling and spent four years in prison in a result of fabricated case.

**The previous President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, has recognized that Azerbaijan's "former leadership was also guilty" of the events in Khojaly. Already in April 1992, according to the agency "Bilik-Dunyasy", he had commented as follows: "The bloodshed will be to our advantage. We should not interfere in the course of events".**

**"Megapolis-Express" newspaper wrote: "It cannot be denied that if the Popular Front of Azerbaijan actually set far-reaching objectives, they have been achieved. Mutalibov has been compromised and overthrown, public opinion worldwide has been shaken, and the Azerbaijanis and their Turkish brethren have believed in the so-called "genocide of the Azerbaijani people in Khojaly"<sup>7</sup>.**

1. "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, February 1993
2. "Ogonek" magazine, Nos. 14-15, 1992
3. "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, 2 April 1992
4. "Novoye vremya" magazine, 6 March 2001
5. "Mukhalifat" newspaper, 28 April 1992
6. "Megapolis-Express", No. 17, 1992

*Please, do not hesitate to contact the NKR Office for additional information*

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**ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն**

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Jim Costa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1314 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costa:

I am writing to express our gratitude for your statement honoring the victims of the Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan in 1988-1990.

We do hope that Azerbaijan's president and his regime will realize that the time has come to abandon the policy of xenophobia towards everything Armenian, and to move towards mutual trust and regional peace.

The NKR people and authorities are grateful for your steadfast support to the freedom and security of our young democracy. We remain committed to continue developing as a democratic society, and to contribute to our shared vision of a stable and prosperous South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Avetisyan".

Robert Avetisyan  
Representative

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STATEMENT REGARDING NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC PARLIMENTARY ELECTIONS BY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ELECTION OBSERVATION  
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) conducted its 6<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary election on May 3, 2015 with a fair and transparent system consistent with international standards according to a team of nonpartisan academic and subject matter experts from the United States, Mexico and Brazil.

The University of California Election Observation and Technical Assistance Team observers visited with representatives, candidates and party offices, polling stations, and government offices including the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

On Election Day, observers visited 16 polling stations in six of Artsakh's nine regions and a regional passport department that assists voters who are not on the voting list. The team also observed the opening and closing processes of polling stations, and witnessed the chain of custody of voted and counted ballots to the district administration center of the Regional Electoral Commission. The team also visited a polling station set up in the country's only prison where 20 voters were eligible to vote. Prior to Election Day the team visited a polling station set up in Yerevan for Artsakh citizens residing in Armenia including those who are attending either university or military school located there.

Throughout the election, the observers witnessed a fair, accurate, and transparent election process. "The commitment of the voters and poll workers of Nagorno-Karabakh would rival any country" Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin said as reports of from the polls showed turnout to be 70% or higher.

Observers also noted that women in Nagorno-Karabakh were equal participants in the election in every aspect including participating as voters, poll workers, party representatives, government officials, and candidates.

The team of observers will prepare a report outlining their findings and make suggestions to improve the electoral process. The preliminary report will include recommendations to implement alternative voting options for voters who are absent from their precinct on Election Day, and those who are not able to get to the polling station.

The University of California Election Observation and Technical Assistance Team is comprised of a group of professional non-partisan academics, researchers and experts in the fields of electoral processes and human rights. Members of the University of California Election Observation and Technical Assistance Team also monitored the 2012 presidential elections in Artsakh. Team members include: Karin Mac Donald, Director of Election Administration Research Center at UC Berkeley, Gail Pellerin Santa Cruz County Clerk, Kristen Abajian Human Rights Initiative at UC Davis, Peter Abajian The Paros Foundation, Carlos Antaramian CIESAS-Mexico City, Rodrigo Gomez Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa Mexico City, Heitor Loureiro Ph.D candidate, Sao Paulo State University.

**List of members of the US Congress who received letter of the NKR Foreign Minister and factsheet on humanitarian needs in the NKR**

<b>Title 1</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	
The Honorable	C.A. Dutch	Ruppersberger	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Sanford D.	Bishop, Jr.	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Henry	Cuellar	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Peter J.	Visclosky	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Debbie	Wasserman-Schultz	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Timothy J.	Ryan	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	John Abney	Culberson	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	José E.	Serrano	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Lucille	Roybal-Allard	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Michael M.	Honda	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Marcy	Kaptur	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Sam	Farr	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Chaka	Fattah	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	David E.	Price	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Mike	Quigley	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	David	Young	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Chellie	Pingree	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Steven	Palazzo	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Betty	McCollum	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Barbara	Lee	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Nita M.	Lowey	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Rosa	DeLauro	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Harold	Rogers	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Andy	Harris	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Tom	Graves	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	David	Joyce	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	David	Valadao	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Martha	Roby	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Steve	Womack	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Kevin	Yoder	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Mark	Amodei	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Tom	Rooney	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Mike	Simpson	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Chris	Stewart	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Robert B.	Aderholt	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Scott	Rigell	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Jaime Herrera	Beutler	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	David	Jolly	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Ken	Calvert	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	John	Carter	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Tom	Cole	U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable	Chuck	Fleischmann	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Jeff	Fortenberry	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Rodney	Frelinghuysen	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Kay	Granger	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Ander	Crenshaw	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Evan	Jenkins	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Charles W.	Dent	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Mario	Diaz-Balart	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Derek	Kilmer	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Steve	Israel	U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable	Thad	Cochran	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Mitch	McConnell	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Richard	Shelby	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Lamar	Alexander	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Susan M	Collins	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Lisa	Murkowski	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Lindsey	Graham	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Mark	Kirk	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Roy	Blunt	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Jerry	Moran	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	John	Hoeven	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	John	Boozman	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Shelley Moore	Capito	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Bill	Cassidy	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	James	Lankford	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Steve	Daines	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Barbrar A.	Mikulski	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Patrick J.	Leahy	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Patty	Murray	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Dianne	Feinstein	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Richard J	Durbin	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Jack	Reed	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Jon	Tester	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Tom	Udall	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Jeanne	Shaheen	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Jeff	Merkley	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Christopher	Coons	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Brian	Schatz	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Tammy	Baldwin	U.S. Senate
The Honorable	Chris	Murphy	U.S. Senate



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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC

May 28, 2015

**The Honorable Andy Harris  
US House of Representatives**

Dear Congressman Harris:

On behalf of the people and authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Republic of Artsakh), I am writing to express our profound gratitude for your continued involvement in providing the US direct humanitarian assistance to our young democracy.

The financial aid by the United States helps our government to overcome devastating consequences of the 1991-1994 aggression and the ongoing blockade imposed by Azerbaijan. The assistance has also become an important tool in promoting democracy, regional stability and prosperity in our volatile neighborhood.

While significant progress has been made, much still remains to be done in order to address the ongoing humanitarian needs, such as a safer environment, improved healthcare services and better livelihood for the people of Nagorno Karabakh. The assistance by the United States to our republic also represents a vital investment in our common vision of a stable, peaceful and prosperous South Caucasus region.

It is our hope that with your help the United States will continue the important tradition of humanitarian aid to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic as another manifestation of the steadfast support by the United States to universal freedoms and liberties around the world.

Sincerely,



**Karen Mirzoyan**

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## OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA

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May 2015

### Priority Humanitarian Needs in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

#### Introduction

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) was formed in 1991 in the process of disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The republic was proclaimed in a full compliance with then functioning applicable local and international laws. Since restoring independence, the NKR has successfully passed through significant external and domestic challenges, and established a stable democracy with efficient state institutions and fledging market economy.

However, the devastating war imposed by Azerbaijan that lasted from 1991 till signing a ceasefire in 1994, as well as the continued blockade brought the young democracy to the brink of humanitarian disaster. The war has destroyed Nagorno Karabakh's almost entire economic and social infrastructure causing over \$5 billion in damages by most modest preliminary estimates.

Due to a lack of final political settlement with Azerbaijan, largely conditioned by the latter's non-constructive stance towards the international mediation efforts (co-chaired by the United States, France and Russia), Karabakh remains deprived from active international involvement in its post conflict restoration, and continues to face urgent problems.

The United States is the only country that has been rendering annual assistance to address the war-affected realms in the Republic since 1998. In recent years through various humanitarian organizations the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has implemented critical humanitarian projects in the NKR, building homes, medical facilities and water pipelines. The NKR people and authorities are grateful to the American nation and the US government for continued support, and is hopeful that continued and enhanced US assistance will help eradicate all consequences of devastating aggression against our democracy. These programs have played a significant role in addressing a wide range of humanitarian problems throughout the Republic and contributed to the improvement of the daily life of the population. However, unfortunately much more still needs to be done.

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The most pressing needs include:

- drinking water;
- housing;
- humanitarian mine-clearance;
- healthcare, including prevention of pandemics, and food security;
- post-war rehabilitation.

### **Drinking Water**

Shortage of drinking water remains a serious problem in Nagorno Karabakh. Population in most towns and settlements sees only two hours of running water every other day. As a result of the war, water supply systems in 95 towns and villages were damaged or destroyed, and require a complete reconstruction. The quality of drinking water, itself, must be improved as well, since the realm has been purposefully underdeveloped in Karabakh by the Soviet Azeri administration.

The issue is among priorities for the NKR leadership. The Government, jointly with the USAID and "Armenia" All-Armenian Fund have significantly improved the water-supply system in Stepanakert, the republic's capital, setting an important and vivid example of successful cooperation in the sphere. Currently, there is a pressing need of water intake systems in three regions of Karabakh.

### **Suggested Programs and Estimated Cost:**

*Currently, there is a pressing need of water intake systems in three regions of Karabakh.*

*Estimated cost of the construction and restoration of water intake and distribution systems is around \$12.1 million;*

### **Housing**

The 1991-1994 war destroyed almost 150 towns and villages throughout the republic. More than 11,000 private houses, 226 multistory apartment buildings, which formed 60% of the whole housing, as well as 17 medical clinics and about 70 first-aid facilities were partially or completely destroyed.

After 1994 ceasefire, many buildings and constructions were restored with the U.S. humanitarian assistance. Currently, some 7,000 private houses and 40 apartment buildings require reconstruction.

As a result of war, some 2,000 families of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan and 5,000 of local families whose houses were damaged by artillery or air bombings still lack permanent housing.

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**Suggested Program and Estimated Cost:**

*Construction and restoration of housing - \$30 million.*

**Humanitarian mine-clearance**

In 1992 more than half of the territory of NKR was under Azerbaijani military occupation. The war left in Karabakh soil thousands of antipersonnel and antitank mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), which still threaten the security of the population. More than 200 civilians, mainly children and teenagers, became victims of landmine-related accidents. Mines and UXO hamper agricultural development and restoration of vastly damaged infrastructure in Nagorno Karabakh.

Currently, mine-clearance in Nagorno Karabakh is carried-out primarily by the "HALO Trust" UK-based humanitarian mine-clearance organization. According to the HALO specialists, Nagorno Karabakh has one of the world's highest per capita rates of accidents caused by mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Despite the clear humanitarian need for the clearance of ERW, the international isolation that impoverishes the people of Karabakh also makes it difficult for HALO to raise funds to work in the region, and the funds that are raised often have territorial restrictions placed upon them. Funding is desperately needed to prevent Karabakh's communities being blighted by mines and cluster munitions for decades to come.

365 civilians in Karabakh suffered in 280 accidents caused by Mines and UXO by the end of 2014. The HALO experts believe Nagorno Karabakh could be cleared of most mines and UXO within the next 5 to 6 years, in case if full funding is secured.

**Suggested Program and Estimated Cost:**

*According to the HALO Trust experts, humanitarian mine-clearance throughout the republic will cost around \$20 million.*

**Healthcare and Food Security**

Nagorno Karabakh's healthcare system has also been almost entirely destroyed during the war. Karabakh people are grateful to the U.S. Congress and international organizations, which supported construction of maternity hospitals in Stepanakert, and three other regional centers. Still, the republic's healthcare system requires additional assistance in order to raise effectiveness and ability to offer modern and effective treatment.

In total, five hospitals and 13 other medical facilities need repair and improved equipment. Medical training programs for hospital personnel are also among priorities.

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Food security is becoming another issue of significant importance in the contemporary world. The NKR Government undertakes measures to make sure food on local market corresponds to accepted safety standards. To that end, a "Center for Standardization, Metrology and Certification" has been created in Nagorno Karabakh. Still, the center requires modern equipment for effective activity.

**Suggested Programs and Estimated Cost:**

*Reconstruction of provincial medical facilities, acquisition of medical equipment, training of medical personnel, measures to prevent pandemic threats and ensure food security will cost around \$3.4 million.*

**Post-war Specialized Physical Rehabilitation**

The 1991-1994 war with Azerbaijan affected dozens of thousand lives. Since the ceasefire was signed in 1994, Nagorno Karabakh has been facing new challenges of post-war rehabilitation of civilians with spinal cord injuries, children with inborn disabilities (cerebral palsy, poliomyelitis, spin bifida etc.) and elderly people that require post-stroke rehabilitation.

A Rehabilitation Center has been opened in September 1998 by initiative of the Baroness Caroline Cox, then vice-speaker of United Kingdom's House of Lords, in cooperation with Nagorno Karabakh's ministry of health. Since 2007, the Center also offers daycare services for toddlers.

Since the day of establishment, the center offers treatment to some 800 patients per year, expanding target groups from newborns to elderly. High quality of treatment and dedication of the Center's team attracts not only locals, but also patients with similar pathologies from Armenia, Georgia and other regional countries.

The Rehabilitation Center currently occupies a war-damaged former school building. The Center is having major difficulties to cope with the existing demand.

**Suggested Programs and Estimated Cost:**

*Construction of a new building for the Rehabilitation Center will cost approximately \$5 million. Acquisition of specialized equipment for disabled people will cost around \$200,000*

***The NKR Office in the United States is ready to provide additional information on the aforementioned issues. For further details, please do not hesitate to contact the office by sending email to: [info@nkrusa.org](mailto:info@nkrusa.org) or by calling: (202) 481-3341***

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## ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

November 15-30, 2014

*Artsakh Newsletter is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States, and covers the key developments in and around the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh*

### SECURITY & POLITICS

On November 12, Azeri forces shot down Artsakh Army helicopter during a training flight. Baku refused to provide international access to the incident area. NKR defense army retrieved the corpse of one pilot, the remains of the two other crew members in a special operation. The pilots - major Sergey Sahakyan, first lieutenant Sargis Nazaryan, and lieutenant Azat Sahakyan- received military honors as they were laid to rest in a state funeral in Yerevan.

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan visited California, participated in the annual telethon of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund. In the USA, President also met with public figures, Diaspora organizations and businessmen. At a special reception President Sahakyan awarded American and American-Armenian state and public figures for promoting international recognition of the Artsakh's independence.

Following the visit to the United States, President Sahakyan visited Italy, discussed bilateral ties with Senators, members of the research and academic community.

International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) expressed support to the OSCE Minsk Group's efforts to resolve the Karabakh issue in its summit's final resolution.

Artsakh's Askeran and French Bouc-Bel-Air sign Declaration of friendship.

The Mayor of the French city of Valence Nicolas Daragon joined the France-Karabakh Friendship Circle.

Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan stressed the importance of increasing the interest of youth in foreign policy during a meeting with participants of the Voice of Artsakh Youth project organized by the European Integration and Institute for Public Diplomacy and Artsakh Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs.

### ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

"Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund concluded its 17<sup>th</sup> international telethon securing more than \$12 million in donations and pledges for the construction of the Vardenis-Mardakert highway and other significant projects. Watch the Artsakh TV report.

Stepanakert Brandy Factory's "Madatov" product received the Best Brand award at the CUBAEXPO 2014 fair, Havana. The brandy also took gold during the International Competition of Wines and Alcoholic Drinks in Russia, while Berdashen wine won silver.

The NKR government submitted draft of FY 2015 state budget to parliament's consideration. The document remains socially oriented, government says.

Tobacco fields are set to increase to 200 hectares in Artsakh. Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan discussed the issue with local private and public sector.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

1.8 percent more Artsakhtsis were born from January to October 2014 comparing to last year. Number of marriages also increased by 66% in 2014.

Artsakh Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalian visited France to meet French state and local government representatives as well as French-Armenian Diaspora organizations. During her visit, Minister Aghabalian also attended the concert of the "Voices of Artsakh" group in Issy-les-Moulineaux, a town near Paris.

### **INTERVIEWS & PUBLICATIONS**

The Fresno Bee covered Artsakh President's visit to Fresno, California.

While visiting California, Artsakh President Sahakyan answered questions from the mass media at his meeting with leading Armenian-American media groups. Watch the Artsakh TV report.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

Artsakh War Hero Monte Melkonian, one of the legendary commanders, would have turned 57 this year. Born in California, Monte joined the Artsakh Defense Army during the Karabakh war of 1991-1994 and fought against Azerbaijan's aggression. He commanded the Artsakh Self-Defense Forces in Martuni and participated in military operations in Shahumyan, Shushi, Qarvatjar, Akna and other areas. On June 12, 1993, Melkonian was killed in combat near the village of Merzuli during the Aghdam operation. He was posthumously awarded the state honor of Artsakh Hero for his service to the republic. Watch the Artsakh TV report and a documentary about Monte Melkonian.

### ***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was established in 1991 in compliance with international and local legal principles and norms. Facing an imminent threat to their

lives, the people of Artsakh have proclaimed a sovereign republic through a declaration of their assembly that was then backed in the Artsakh-wide referendum. People of Artsakh have defended on battlefield their choice for freedom and dignity, forcing neighboring Azerbaijan to sign a ceasefire in 1994. Since then, the republic has developed into a sovereign, democratic republic, with capable armed forces and a market economy.

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## **ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER**

December, 2014

*The NKR Office in the USA wishes you happy holidays!!*

*Artsakh Newsletter is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States, and covers the key developments in and around the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh*

### **SECURITY & POLITICS**

Violations by Azerbaijani forces continued on the Line of Contact. On December 8, Private Garik Ispiryan, 19, died from hostile fire. Armenian forces retaliated. Azerbaijan continues to reject confidence-building proposals by international mediators intended to reduce tensions between the sides. Ispiryan was posthumously awarded.

In Washington, members of Congress, Armenian community and diplomats gathered on Capitol Hill to celebrate the anniversary of Artsakh's independence. The event had Artsakh Parliament Chairman Ashot Ghulian as the keynote speaker. For more information, read press-releases by the ANCA, AAA and the Embassy of Armenia.

As part of his trip Ghulian met with Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Armenian Congressional Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and other members of the U.S. Congress, State Department officials, think tank representatives and Armenian-Americans.

In a statement recalling the destruction of Armenian heritage sites in Azerbaijani-controlled territory, NKR Foreign Ministry argued that "Azerbaijani leadership place its country among terrorist organizations."

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

Development of tourism, including establishment of an eco-village in Artsakh, is the new concept developed by Russian-Armenian philanthropist Ruben Vardanyan.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Construction of the new district in the village of Ishkhanadzor in Kashatagh district, intended primarily for Syrian Armenians, will be funded through income from Artsakh national lottery. Watch Artsakh TV report.

New medical clinic and regional hospital opened doors in Martakert and Martuni. Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan and other officials attended the opening ceremonies. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

Artsakh inaugurated a new crisis management center. Watch Artsakh TV report.

Repository of ancient manuscripts (Matenadaran) will have a branch in Artsakh.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Basque Member of the Spanish Parliament Jon Inarritu and Basque Member of the Spanish Senate Urko Aiartza called upon the international community to "use a more explicit language" and to "call a spade a spade" in recently-published joint op-ed on shooting down of the Artsakh Army's unarmed helicopter by Azeri forces.

CNN International featured the documentary "On the Road-Armenia".

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

December 7<sup>th</sup> marked the anniversary of the devastating earthquake in northern Armenia in 1988. NKR officials, general public visited the Memorial in Sepanakert to honor the memory of victims.

On December 10, 1991 the national Referendum in Artsakh reflected an overwhelming (99.98%) endorsement of independence for then newly-formed Nagorno Karabakh Republic. 82% of the total number of Artsakh's registered voters participated in the poll.

Fifteen years later, on December 10, 2006, the people of independent Artsakh reaffirmed their commitment to live in free and sovereign democracy by adopting the republic's Constitution. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

### ***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

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## ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

January, 2015

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### SECURITY & POLITICS

Ignoring calls from international mediators, Azerbaijan continues violating the cease-fire agreement on the Line of Contact and Armenian-Azerbaijani border. On December 25, Azerbaijani special forces launched sabotage infiltration operations from two directions on the southeastern section of the Line of Contact with usage of different-caliber offensive weapons, including hand grenades. The enemy also attempted to mine new territories along the Line of Contact. Artsakh Army units repelled an attack. No casualties from NKR Army side. Later, two Artsakh Army soldiers - Karen Grigoryan and Vardan Mkrtchyan - were killed while repelling another attack from Azerbaijani forces that again had to retreat with losses.

Also, on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, Azeri special forces attempted intruding near Baganis village of Tavush region in Armenia's north caused a killing of an Armenian civilian. Armenian Army units retaliated. Later, Azeri forces fired from large caliber machine guns and snipers in the direction of Armenian village of Chinari causing damages for four residential houses.

In his New Year's address, NKR President Bako Sahakyan congratulated the nation stressing the importance of continuing the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. On New Year's eve, President Sahakyan visited with forward-deployed military units of the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army to congratulate the servicemen. Watch Artsakh TV report.

On the Armenian Christmas Eve, NKR President attended the Divine Liturgy at the St. Ghazanchetsots church in Shushi. Watch Artsakh TV report.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay stressed the need for a peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict with taking particular account of the Artsakh's people right to self-determination. The Ministry also strongly condemned the violations of ceasefire by Azerbaijan.

### ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

NKR government expected 9 percent GDP growth in 2015, said NKR Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan.

Tourism in Artsakh registered 40 percent growth in 2014.

Artsakh continues expanding its trade ties with other countries.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Artsakh President Sahakyan visited the "Azat Artsakh" newspaper's office and met the media staff members.

Construction of another cathedral church in Stepanakert will be launched in 2015 sponsored by the Vardanyan family.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

The Washington-based the Hill published an article by Vilen Khlgatyan and Armen Sahakyan titled "Aliyev's dictatorship is threat to regional and global stability".

Armenian-Jewish community responded to deceitful anti-Armenian Turkish-Azeri propaganda stressing that "there is no anti-Semitism in Armenia" in the publication authored by President of the Jewish Community of Armenia.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

On January 13, 1990, mobs in Baku, Azerbaijan launched brutal, house-by-house attacks on ethnic Armenians still living in the Azerbaijani capital that came to be known as Baku pogroms. The total death toll was never definitively established, but deaths of many dozens of Armenians had been confirmed. In the following days, Soviet authorities evacuated remnants of the community of Baku that prior to the conflict numbered more than a quarter million people. For more details read the excerpt from "Nowhere, a Story of Exile" book authored by Baku pogrom eyewitness Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte. Also read a story on Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan by refugee family member Inna Mirzoyan.

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## ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

January - February, 2015

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### SECURITY AND POLITICS

Despite international calls for restraint, Azerbaijan continued sniper and sabotage attacks across the Line of Contact. In the first two months of the year, the NKR and Armenian government have confirmed the deaths of 11 servicemen and two civilians – the worst casualties for Armenia and NKR since the cease-fire as a result of Azerbaijani attacks. Azerbaijan has stopped publishing reports on its casualties that result from Armenian retaliatory attacks.

Among the Armenian servicemen who died in defense of the homeland are Pvt. Vardan Mkrtchyan and Lt. Karen Grigoryan (both killed in action Jan. 3), Contract Pvt. Armen Harutyunyan (Jan. 17), Pvt. Suren Pilosyan (Jan. 20), Contact Sgt. Nahapet Asatryan (Jan. 21), Contract Sgt. Arman Udumyan (Jan. 21), Karen Galstyan and Private Artak Sargsyan (both Jan. 23), Sgt. Shekspir Hakobyan (Feb. 5), Pvt. Hayk Baroyan and Lt. Col. Artak Agekyan (both Feb. 28).

A number of servicemen have been wounded, several of them seriously. Azerbaijan also fired at civilians in Armenia's Tavush province, killing 79-year-old Hrant Sargsyan and 61-year-old Vanik Ghukasyan, and wounding 85-year-old Levon Andreasyan. Armenian forces were forced to take corresponding measure and informal Azerbaijan sources estimate Azerbaijani combat deaths at about 20.

In view of the unprecedented rise in violence, the OSCE Minsk Group issued a statement expressing grave concern and calling on "Azerbaijan to observe its commitments to a peaceful resolution of the conflict". Mediators also called on Armenia to "take all measures to reduce tensions."

"Azeri actions cannot influence our determination", Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan told OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in Stepanakert.

Armenian-Americans, survivors of anti-Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan, community members gathered on the Capitol Hill to pay tribute to all those who suffered from the violence. The event was organized by the ANCA.

Colorado and New Hampshire legislatures blocked controversial anti-Armenian measures introduced on behalf of Azerbaijan-sponsored lobby groups.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan, EU Special Representative for South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia Amb. Herbert Salber discussed NKR – EU relations, and the Karabakh peace process. Parties agreed to continue consultations.

The NKR Central Electoral Commission's new website <http://cecnkr.am> provides information on the upcoming on May 3, 2015 Parliamentary elections.

President Sahakyan has instructed police to investigate and report on the incident on the Goris-Stepanakert highway.

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

NKR government now offers new tax incentives to individuals who purchase real estate.

Yerevan-based BeeLine-Telecom announced new roaming tariffs in Artsakh.

Cooperative farming has been introduced in Artsakh's Martuni region.

"Artsakh-Kat" dairy company expanded its products assortment.

"Karabakh Carpet" supplies production to local and foreign markets, including the United States.

In 2014, Artsakh welcomed first tourists from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Costa Rica.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Freedom House's Freedom in the World Report ranked Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh as "Partly Free".

Israeli historian, associate professor of the Open University of Israel Dr. Yair Auron visited Artsakh.

"Initiatives for Development of Armenia" (IDeA) foundation launched by Ruben Vardanian continues programs in Artsakh.

NKR Government, Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's French affiliate launched construction of a community center in Mushkapat in Martuni.

The Fund also concludes construction of a community center in Karin Tak in Shushi. The project is co-sponsored by Artsakh government, Armenia Fund's Argentinean affiliate and the Devejian family. Watch Artsakh TV report.



The Armenia Fund's Toronto affiliate completed renovation of the Shosh village school in Artsakh's Askeran region.

In addition, the Fund has reconstructed the Khachatur Abovyan School in Shushi that enrolls around 450. Watch the report.

NKR National Statistics Service reports increased birth and lower death rates in 2014 compared to the previous year.

NKR government will partly subsidize Artsakh students' commuting expenses.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

The New York Times published the NKR Representative's response to Azeri Ambassador's letter.

"Orwellian" Azerbaijan has certainly passed beyond the pale of norms and principles of international law and fundamental human rights", reads article by NKR Office's Aram Avetisyan in the Foreign Policy Journal.

"Azerbaijan – Utopian rhetoric, dystopian reality", the Washington-based Hill newspaper publishes article by Anna Astvatsaturian-Turcotte.

"Armenian-populated Nagorno Karabakh could be the most unknown wonder of the world", says publication in British "Wanderlust" magazine.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

In February 1995 a cease-fire consolidation agreement was signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan has refused to abide by the agreement. For the agreement text visit at: <http://www.ca-c.org/dataeng/books/book-1/12.appendix-12.shtml>.

This February 20th marked the 27th anniversary of the Karabakh Liberation Movement. On February 20, 1988, reflecting the will of local population, Karabakh's legislature petitioned Soviet leadership bodies of Azerbaijan and Armenia to return Nagorno Karabakh to Soviet Armenia, aiming to correct Stalin's arbitrary and illegitimate decision of 1921 to incorporate Artsakh into newly-created Soviet Azerbaijan.

In response to peaceful manifestations in Stepanakert, Azerbaijan responded with attacks and murders of ethnic Armenians in settlements throughout Azerbaijan, most cruelly in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad. On February 26-29, 1988, Azeri town of Sumgait (hundreds of miles away from Nagorno Karabakh) became the scene of mass pogroms and brutal killings of ethnic Armenians. Three days of massacres took dozens of

innocent lives and left more than 100 injured, setting a dangerous precedent which was later repeated in Baku and elsewhere in Azerbaijan.

Conducted with the connivance of the Azerbaijani authorities, the tragedy never saw a comprehensive investigation. Soviet courts prosecuted 80 individuals, sentencing one to death and others to prison terms, but the organizers behind the pogroms were never determined. Commemoration of the Sumgait pogrom took place in Artsakh, Armenia and dozens of states worldwide. On this tragic anniversary, a people and Artsakh leadership visited the Stepanakert Memorial Complex to pay tribute to the memory of the innocent victims.

Click [here](#) to watch a documentary "Ordinary genocide" about Sumgait massacres.

The crime against Armenians in Azerbaijan was marked by Members of the U.S., who also condemned the ongoing Azerbaijani aggression against Artsakh and Armenia.

The present Azerbaijani government refuses to admit the responsibility and condemn the violence that led to the Karabakh war, focusing instead on misleading the international community on war-time events near Akna, former Aghdam. In February 1992, Azerbaijani civilians were killed soon after they fled from the battle zone via a safe corridor provided by Armenian forces. Watch here a documentary "Between Hunger and Fire" on the events.

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## **ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER**

March 1-15, 2015

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### **SECURITY AND POLITICS**

Azerbaijan continued intermittent violations of the cease-fire agreement with Private Arsen Karapetyan, 20, killed in a sniper attack. As a result, NKR Defense Army undertook pre-emptive actions resulting in the loss of seven Azerbaijani servicemen, including army officer. While Azerbaijani government initially denied any losses, information on soldiers' burials continued to come out through social media.

Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives issued statements remembering victims of Armenian massacres in Azerbaijan in 1988- 1990. US legislators, in particular, condemned the ongoing violence and intimidation fostered by Azerbaijan, and reiterated support for freedom and security of Artsakh.

NKR Representative discussed developments in and around Artsakh at the Columbia University in New York. The University's Armenian Society organized the event.

Heads of communities throughout Artsakh are undergoing regular local governance courses. Watch Artsakh TV report.

10 police officers were fired, 15 more saw disciplinary actions as a result of internal investigation on the January 31 incident near Berdzor.

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

NKR delegation led by Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan visited the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait to discuss business opportunities with local entrepreneurs.

Artsakh textile manufacturing industry is exploring ways to improve production.

Black caviar production among promising businesses in Artsakh. Watch Artsakh TV report.

With snow melting, Martakert - Vardenis highway construction has resumed.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Artsakhtsi David Hayrapetyan won the Martial Arts World Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

Artak Grigoryan of the NKR State Department on Tourism and Historic Environment Preservation describes tourism in Artsakh.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

On March 11, 1999 the European Parliament passed a resolution in support of the peace process in the Caucasus stressing that “the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence following similar declarations by former Soviet Socialist Republics after the collapse of the USSR in September 1991” and instructing its President “to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, the Presidents in the OSCE’s Minsk Group, the parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh.”

March 3, 2015 marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund that united Armenian communities and Armenians all over the world around Armenia and Artsakh. All over the years, through its network of 25 global affiliations around the world, the Armenian Fund has implemented a number of strategic and critical projects in Armenia and Artsakh, including the Goris-Stepanakert highway, the North-South highway, rural development in Armenia and Artsakh, Artsakh’s clean drinking water and war-damaged irrigation system restoration, construction and reconstruction of hospitals, schools, community centers as well as many other projects in the areas of healthcare, agriculture, education, social infrastructure development etc. One of the most important ongoing projects of “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund includes the construction of the second road – Vardenis - Martakert highway – that will connect Armenia and Artsakh and will strengthen Artsakh’s economy and security.

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## ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

March 15-31, 2015

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### ELECTIONS

The parliamentary election campaign launched on March 30 involves more than 200 candidates from seven political parties contesting 33 seats in Nagorno Karabakh's National Assembly. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

### SECURITY AND POLITICS

Azerbaijan continued cross-border attacks. On March 19, an Azerbaijani special forces unit ambushed NKR army unit returning from positions near Gulistan in Artsakh's north. The fire fight claimed the lives of NKR defense army servicemen Hakob Khachatryan (born in 1996), Eduard Hayrapetyan (born in 1995), Arshak Harutyunyan (born in 1995) and Samvel Hakobyan (born in 1995, died of his wounds on March 26); three others, including the unit's commander 23-year-old Lt. Sarkis Gabrielyan, were wounded. Following the arrival of reinforcements, defense army soldiers pursued the Azeri special forces, which also suffered serious casualties as it withdrew. NKR defense ministry reports at least 14 attackers dead. Azerbaijan continues to restrict information on casualties.

In a separate incident on March 29, Artsakh Defense Army private Hovsep Andreasyan (born in 1995) was killed by sniper fire in northeastern Artsakh.

46 Army privates and officers were awarded for courage displayed in defense of Artsakh. Watch TV report.

Stepanakert called upon the international community not to ignore bellicose statements from Baku, after Azerbaijan's defense minister said, following the latest clashes, that Azerbaijani servicemen "must not miss a single chance day or night to kill an Armenian, and Armenians must constantly live in an atmosphere of fear."

The Armenian National Committee of America and Armenian Assembly of America testified before House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations calling for increased assistance to Armenia and Artsakh.

Foreign minister Karen Mirzoyan discussed ministry's activity in 2014, outlined this year's priorities.

Mirzoyan also presented government's position on Artsakh-related issues at the Fifth Media Forum "At the Foot of Ararat" in Yerevan. Forum participants later visited Artsakh.

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

NKR Government is conducting initial preparations for a population census. Watch Artsakh TV report.

Honey production has been identified among prospective agribusiness directions in Artsakh. Watch Artsakh TV report.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Artsakhtsi Ashot Daniyelyan won gold at the Sambo World Championship in Moscow, and Stepanakert hosted the Armenian Sambo championship.

Yerevan State University students helped plant 100 trees in Berdzor to commemorate the Genocide Centennial. Watch Artsakh TV report.

AGBU Canada leadership, NKR authorities discussed the organization's ongoing and future programs in Artsakh. Watch Artsakh TV report

The Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge raised \$3,800 in donations for the HALO Trust mine-clearance organization to support mine-clearance in Artsakh's Hadrut region.

Screening of "A Century-Long Genocide: Black January of Baku" documentary about 1990 Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan took place in Washington, DC's St. Mary Armenian Church.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

Stepan Sargsyan of the "Patriot" American-Armenian charity organization describes organization's activity in Artsakh's Karvachar and Kashatagh regions.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

On March 23, 1995, the Council of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) issued a statement about the Mandate of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference on Nagorno Karabakh under the auspices of the CSCE (later OSCE, "Minsk Conference"). Although the conference itself was never convened, it laid a foundation for the establishment of the main mediation format under the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship that represents the only internationally mandated platform for dealing with the Karabakh conflict. Since 1997, France, Russia and the United States have co-



chaired the Minsk Group conducting regular visits to the conflicting sides - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh.

NKR parliament has adopted a statement condemning the 1920 Armenian massacre in Shushi, and calling it the "continuation of the Ottoman empire's policy of Armenian Genocide." Watch Artsakh TV report.

95 years ago, on March 22-26, 1920, Turkish and Azeri forces attacked the Armenian quarters of Shushi, thus violating the temporary agreement achieved between the government of Azerbaijan and Karabakh's National Council. The attack on Armenians in Shushi was followed with massacre of thousands of Shushi's Armenian population.

The massacre spelled an end to one of the major centers of Armenian culture in the world. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

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## **ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER**

April 1-15, 2015

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### **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL**

Pope Francis described the Armenian genocide by the Ottoman Turks as “the first genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century” during a Holy Mass at St Peter's Basilica for marking centenary of the start of the genocide. While delivering his message, he also urged for peace in Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The lack of proper recognition of Armenian genocide led to new crimes against humanity, stated NKR President Bako Sahakyan while addressing “Armenian Genocide as a Crime against Humanity” international conference in Artsakh.

President Bako Sahakyan participated in the opening ceremony of monument - headstone in Armenia, dedicated to the Centennial of Armenian Genocide.

Cyprus parliament criminalized a denial of Armenian genocide. During a meeting with Armenian parliament speaker Galus Sahakyan in Cyprus, President Nicos Anastasiades also stated about Cyprus’ support of Armenian position in finding peaceful resolution of Karabakh conflict.

### **ELECTIONS**

NKR authorities are committed to conduct fair and democratic elections in Artsakh. Artsakh President stressed an importance of fair competition and open debates within civilized atmosphere.

Fresno County Supervisor Andreas Borgeas will serve as a political observer during national parliamentary elections in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

### **SECURITY AND POLITICS**

Azerbaijan continued intermittent violations of the cease-fire agreement with Artsakh Defense Army Sergeant Levon Mirzoyan, born in 1995, killed in a sniper shot in northeastern Artsakh. Earlier, in the southern part of the Line of Contact, Azeri military units attempted infiltration operation, but had to retreat with casualties as Artsakh Army repelled an attack. No casualties from NKR Army side.

NKR Foreign Ministry welcomed "framework agreement around the Iranian nuclear program" and sides' commitment to achieve comprehensive settlement which will contribute to regional stability and security.

Also, NKR Foreign Ministry accused Azerbaijan in violation of Article 13 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War in the case of NKR Defense Army serviceman Andranik Grigoryan's treatment as a prisoner who is in the Azerbaijani captivity since March of 2015.

Armenia and Artsakh criticized proAzeri report of PACE and its title, rejecting any cooperation with PACE rapporteur on this biased report.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov ruled out the restart of active military actions in Karabakh conflict.

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

IT development is among the most promising and prospective sectors of the Artsakh economy, stated Artsakh president on the opening of Artsakh Information Technologies Center's new building. Watch Artsakh TV report.

President Sahakyan visited the Martakert region to discuss social-economic issues of the region. Watch Artsakh TV report.

NKR continues attracting tourists from different parts of the world. A tourist from Singapore shared his experience from his trip to Artsakh.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

Joint efforts of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Lebanese, Brazilian, Dutch, Greek, and Cypriot affiliates with the NKR government resulted in construction of new community center in Khachmach village of Artsakh's Askeran region.

Popular jazz-singer Mariam Merabova, a Shushi descent, visited Artsakh to have a master-class for Artsakh students at Sayat Nova Music College. Watch Artsakh TV report.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

New York Times published Seth Kugel's article about his travel experience in Artsakh.

BBC's Rayhan Demytrie visited Artsakh to report about the situation on the ground.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

April 10 marked the anniversary of the one of the bloodiest chapters of the Karabakh war. On this date in 1992, Azerbaijani military units invaded the village of Maragha in Martakert district. As a result of the aggression, between 43 and 53 of Maragha residents, mostly women, children, and elderly person, were brutally killed, with others taken hostage or forcefully displaced. The fate of a number of them still remains unknown. Two weeks after the Maragha massacre, on April 22-23, the village was repeatedly attacked and locals who had come back to their burnt homes were forced to abandon the village, which has since been occupied by Azerbaijan. Baroness Caroline Cox visited Maragha area a few days after tragedy. She expressed her horror at the crime saying "They are not of human race" about those who carried out the slaughter, lately described in her book "Ethnic Cleansing in Progress". Watch Artsakh TV report. Also watch a documentary about Maragha massacre.

### ***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

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## **ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER**

April 15-May 15, 2015

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## **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL**

In his centennial statement on the Remembrance Day of Armenian Genocide, Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan criticized genocide's denial criminal policy and stressed the need of unification to achieve eternity, justice and victory. Also NKR parliament issued statement on the occasion.

On April 24th, people around the world commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Artsakh people, leadership participated in the opening ceremony of the Memorial Belfry in Stepanakert that honors the memory of Armenian Genocide victims. In his speech during the ceremony, President Bako Sahakyan highlighted that lack of recognition and condemnation of Armenian genocide inspired other perpetrators to commit new atrocities in different parts of world.

In Washington, DC Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden attended the Ecumenical Service at the National Cathedral on May 7. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, Catholicos Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia led the prayer that gathered thousands of guests and multi-faith leaders to remember those lost in the Armenian Genocide.

The Genocide commemoration events also took place in the United States' capital. On April 22, 2015 the Annual Capitol Hill Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide featured many members of U.S. Congress, Armenian-American organizations, as well as Armenian Ambassador and Artsakh Representative.

## **ELECTIONS**

NKR Central Electoral Commission (CEC) reports the new parliament to include five out of seven political parties.

106 international observers from the United States, UK, Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil, Russia, Spain and other states monitored the election process. Preliminary assessment by observers name the elections free and transparent.

Artsakh Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan discussed the election process with a delegation of International Expert Center for Electoral Systems that arrived in Artsakh to observe NKR parliamentary elections.

### **SECURITY AND POLITICS**

Azerbaijan continued intermittent violations of the cease-fire agreement. On April 21, Azeri military units attempted to infiltrate across the line of contact in northern Artsakh. Artsakh Army repelled an attack. In another incident on April 29, Armenian Army serviceman Spartak Gulinyan was wounded in a result of sniper attack in Tavush, Armenia. On May 8, Artsakh Army serviceman Harutyun Ghambaryan (born in 1995) was killed by Azeri sniper fire in north-east Artsakh.

On May 9, Artsakh marked "triple holiday" - victory against the Nazi Germany in the WWII, Liberation of Shushi in 1992, and formation of the Artsakh Defense Army. NKR President issued a statement on this occasion.

"There is no alternative to a peaceful, negotiated settlement", - said U.S. Ambassador to OSCE Daniel Baer calling upon the conflicting sides to continue dialogue and to implement the confidence building measures.

The OSCE Minsk Group mediators had separate meetings with Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Paris. In the statement afterwards, mediators stressed that "in the context of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, we recognize the role of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding their future".

Representatives of «Against Genocide» and «Solidarity with Genocide Victims» organizations visited Artsakh. NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan received the delegation.

Democratic Party of Artsakh (DPA) joined the European Free Alliance party (EFA), a pan-European political family, which voted for membership of Karabakh political unit within the alliance.

NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan discussed developments in and around Artsakh at the California State University, Northridge, with the students of the Political Science Department. Later, Avetisyan also met with the Union of Armenian Students of the University.

### **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

Prime Ministers of Armenia and Artsakh discussed economic relations between the republics.



Eight Karabakh companies participated in the "Made in Armenia-Expo 2015" exposition in Yerevan.

'Woodpeckers' company launched a production of wooden eco-toys.

Armenian government will provide a credit loan to Artsakh in the amount of \$20 mln.

Wine-makers and wine-grower established their joint association in Artsakh.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

President Bako Sahakyan met with Armenian and genocide studies scholar Verjine Svazlian to discuss international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Italian writer of Armenian descent Antonia Arslan accompanied with the New York University professor Siobhan Nash-Marshall visited Artsakh.

Dr. Pamela Steiner, Harvard University professor and great granddaughter of U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau visited Artsakh to meet with Artsakh President. Also head of the Woodrow Wilson Legacy Foundation Donald Wilson Bush traveled to Artsakh. During his visit, he stated that Artsakh people earned their right to be independent.

Stepanakert hosted an exhibition of Artsakh artists dedicated to the Genocide Centennial.

Artsakh related issues and regional developments were discussed during the meeting of President Sahakyan and Czech journalist Petra Procházková.

Projects implemented in Artsakh were discussed during the meeting of President Sahakyan with Armenian Relief Society's delegation that visited Artsakh. Watch Artsakh TV report.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan and Deputy Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Operations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia Severine Chappaz discussed projects in Artsakh.

Artsakh traditional flatbread (jengyalov hac) festival was organized in Tsaghkashat village of the Askeran region, NKR by the NKR Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs. Watch Artsakh TV report.

Shushi hosted a torch lighting ceremony for the 6th Pan-Armenian Games, which will take place in Armenia in August. Watch Artsakh TV report.

### **PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS**

Christian Post published an article of Haykaram Nahapetyan about destruction of historical and religion monuments by ISIS, Taliban, and Azerbaijan.

The European Institute published on its block Armen Sahakyan's overview on Azerbaijan's foreign policy and domestic challenges.

"Mr. Aliyev uses Karabakh to drum up nationalist sentiment and divert attention away from corruption at home",- writes Economist in its recent piece on Azerbaijan.

Office of Congressional Ethics' investigation report says Azeri state-owned oil company secretly funded trips to Azerbaijan for US Members of Congress.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

On April 24, the world marked the Centennial of Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Turkey in 1915. The genocide claimed lives of more than one and half million Armenians in Turkey as well as in neighboring Iran and the Caucasus. The Turkish government continues to deny proper condemnation of the genocide. Watch Artsakh TV report about commemoration.

#### **Liberation of Shushi, May 1992**

Artsakh marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of liberation of the town of Shushi- one of the key early successes of the Armenian forces in Artsakh during the 1991-1994 Karabakh war. This military victory also symbolized the rebirth of the Armenian spirit that resonated far beyond Artsakh, to all corners of the world. In the following days Artsakh Defense Forces restored a vital land-link with Armenia. Fierce battles continued for two more years, but the Shushi operation made all subsequent victories possible. Read more about this heroic operation here. Watch Artsakh TV report.

#### **Cease Fire Agreement, May 1994**

May 12 marks an anniversary of the cease fire agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. Azerbaijan, having sustained major military reversals and with its armed units pushed out of most of Artsakh, was forced to sign a cease-fire agreement. Despite frequent violations of this agreement, the document remains one of the key achievements of the Karabakh peace process that helped re-establish stability in the South Caucasus region. The cease fire agreement was preceded by the Bishkek Protocol of May 5, 1994. Watch Artsakh TV report.

On May 9, 1995, the first ever military parade of Artsakh Defense Army took place in Stepanakert. Watch Artsakh TV report.

#### ***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

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## **ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER**

May 15-31, 2015

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### **ELECTIONS 2015**

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan addressed the first session of the newly-elected NKR National Assembly, stressing a key role of professional parliament in law-making process of the Republic. Watch Artsakh TV report.

At the same session, Ashot Ghulyan was reelected as Chairman of the National Assembly and newly-elected parliament members received MP's certificates from the NKR Central Election Commission. Ghulyan also summed up the work of the fifth NKR parliament during his briefing with mass media. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

The Free Motherland Party and the Democratic Party of Artsakh, first and second political forces in the newly-elected NKR parliament, signed a memorandum of cooperation.

Members of the U.S. Congress congratulated NKR citizens and government for conducting democratic parliamentary elections. Asbarez reported about a group of American election observers to Artsakh.

### **SECURITY & POLITICS**

President Sahakyan led NKR delegation to France. In Paris, NKR delegation that also included Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan and Minister of Healthcare Harutyun Koushkyan met with members of the National Assembly and Senate of France, leaders of the French Armenian community and visited the Paris City Council's exhibition devoted to the Armenian Genocide Centennial. While visiting the department of Drôme in south-eastern France, President met with local leadership and was awarded with the title of an honorary citizen. Also in Drôme's capital of Valence, Artsakh delegation visited the local Armenian Heritage Center and called on sculptor Toros Rasguélienian. Artsakh delegation also met with local leaders in Lyon and Paris. During the visit a cooperation agreement was signed with the department of Drôme. Similar agreements were signed between department of Sarcelles and Martakert, the City of Villeurbanne and Shushi, as well as Valence and Stepanakert.

Prime Minister Harutyunyan discussed a broad range of Artsakh-related issues in his interview with Armenia's Kentron TV.

"Nagorno Karabakh has no relation whatsoever to Azerbaijan's territorial integrity since it has never constituted a part of independent Azerbaijan," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated during the European Union's latest summit with six Eastern Partnership states held in Riga, Latvia.

Azerbaijan opposed a joint declaration adopted at the Riga summit because it supported to the OSCE Minsk Group activity effort to resolve the Karabakh conflict. In the end, the Azerbaijani delegation signed the declaration submitting separately its objections. Armenia made no objections to the declaration's language on Karabakh.

### **ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

Armenian and Artsakh presidents attended an opening of Hyatt Place hotel and recreational center in Jermuk, Armenia.

Economic development was discussed during Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan's visit to Mataghis and Talish villages of Martakert district, on NKR's northeastern border. Fishfarms in Mataghis plan to begin commercial production of black caviar in Artsakh in the near future. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

The Vardenis-Martakert highway connecting Armenia with Artsakh will be completed by early 2016.

### **SOCIETY & CULTURE**

President Sahakyan participated in the meeting of Hayastan All Armenian Fund's Board of Trustees in Yerevan. This year, the Fund's annual Telethon 2015 will include President Sahakyan's proposal to provide housing for families with five or more children.

The Fund has completed construction of community centers in the villages of Khachmach and Shosh in Askeran district. Construction of a kindergarten and a community center continue in Ivanyan village, also in Askeran district, through the support of the Fund's Toronto affiliate and NKR government's co-sponsorship. The Fund's delegation visited Artsakh to inspect the projects. Watch Artsakh TV report.

This year, Artsakh joined the international "Night at the Museum" initiative. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

### **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

Following the days of May 9 Shoushi's liberation, Artsakh Defense Forces established a vital land-link with Armenia on May 18, 1992. The opening of the humanitarian corridor through Lachin (currently Berdzor) enabled Artsakh to establish a secure connection with Armenia and eliminate the blockade.

The Lachin corridor, called the "Road of Life", gave the people in humanitarian crisis a hope for survival and access to food and medicines from Armenia. Today, the city of Berdzor is an administrative center of the Kashatagh region of the NKR. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

May 28 marked the anniversary of the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), the first Armenian independent state in many centuries. The first republic was born in heroic battle fields of Sardarabad, Bash-Abaran and Karakilisa from May 21-29, 1918 when Armenian forces defeated and stopped the advance of the OttomanTurkish army. NKR President issued a statement on the anniversary. Watch an Artsakh TV report.

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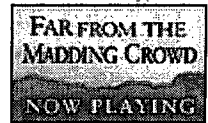
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The Opinion Pages | LETTER

# A Response to Azerbaijan

JAN. 29, 2015

## To the Editor:

A Jan. 21 letter from Azerbaijan's ambassador seems to be calling on the United States to disregard the continued campaign against human rights and freedoms in his country. Instead, he suggests turning attention to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, which remains unresolved because of Azerbaijan's revanchist aspirations.

Apparently, the recent increase in bloody attacks against Nagorno-Karabakh is how the Azeri leadership has chosen to distract attention, both domestic and international, from its suppression of liberties and dissent. The Azeri leadership must realize that by doing so it only deepens the gap with the international community, and delays a solution of the regional problems.

Azerbaijan must stop using pretexts, including military provocations, to justify domestic shortcomings. Existence of the democratic Nagorno-Karabakh Republic proves that true democracy is possible, even in conditions of a permanent threat of foreign aggression.

The people and democratically elected government of my country, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, are interested in peace, prosperity and democracy in all regional states, including neighboring Azerbaijan.

ROBERT AVETISYAN

Washington, Jan. 23, 2015

*The writer is the representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to*

*the United States.*

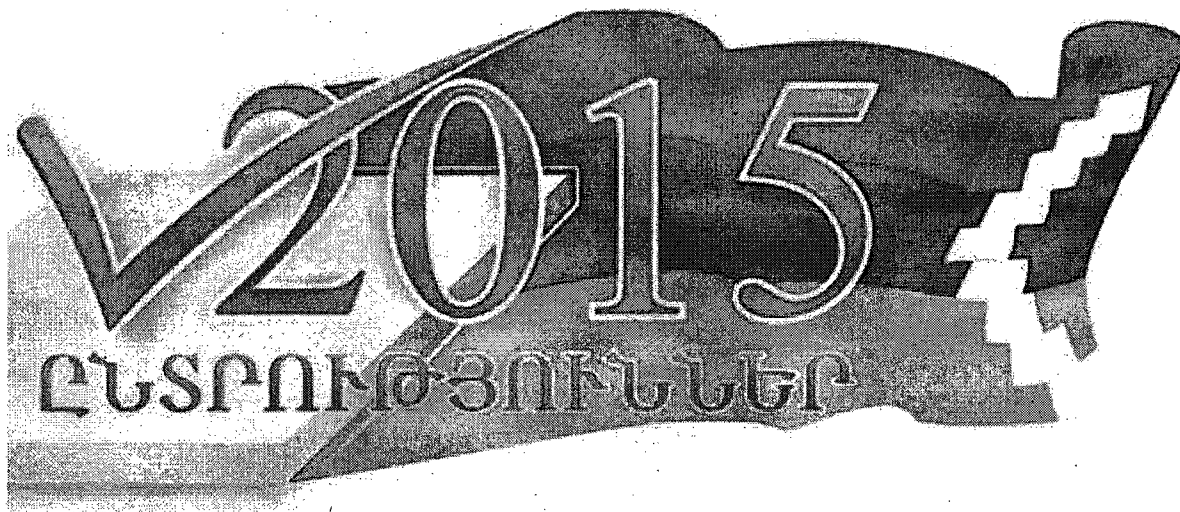
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## NKR OFFICE IN THE USA



### PRESS RELEASE: ARTSAKH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS DEEMED FREE AND FAIR

#### *Central Election Commission Publishes Preliminary Results*

Washington, DC – On May 3, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic held parliamentary elections. Voters chose between seven political party lists and several dozen individual candidates competing for 22 proportional and 11 majoritarian seats, respectively. More than 70 percent of eligible voters turned out to elect members the sixth National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

105 international observers from the Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, UK, United States and elsewhere monitored the process.

According to preliminary assessment by observers, the elections were free and fair, and reflected the democratic will of the people. In particular, the University of California Election Observation and Technical Assistance Team, comprised of elected officials, professional researchers and experts in electoral processes and human rights from the United States, Mexico and Brazil have concluded that the May 3, 2015 election was conducted “with a fair and transparent system consistent with international standards”. The Team plans to issue a final report shortly.

“The commitment of the voters and poll workers of Nagorno Karabakh would rival any country”, said Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin, member of the team.

Another team member, Fresno County Supervisor Andreas Borgeas noted the high turnout characterizing it as “a good basis for Artsakh’s statehood that is on par with democratic standards.”

In its **statement** related to Artsakh parliamentary elections, the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that "the parliamentary elections have reaffirmed the fact that elections, as a key element for the functioning of any democratic system, have become an integral part of the political culture of Artsakh. Free, fair, transparent and competitive elections, being an inalienable mechanism of political processes in the NKR, are aimed at organizing the social life of the republic and forming the government by democratic means, which, in turn, serves as a basis for promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law."

According to preliminary results released by the **NKR Central Electoral Commission (CEC)**, five out of seven political parties crossed the five percent threshold to secure a share of 22 proportional seats. Those are: Free Motherland Party (47.5 %), Democratic Party of Artsakh (19.1 %), Armenian Revolutionary Federation - Dashnaksutyun (18.81 %), Movement 88 (6.93 %), and National Revival (5.8 %). Another 11 parliament members were elected through majoritarian system.

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